

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

In another general aspect, a client device includes an interface to receive messages from a content based messaging (CBM) network including a status of one or more conference system users, a processor to subscribe to the status messages and process the status messages for presentation, and an interface to present the status of the one or more conference system users. The interface is configured to ~~configured to~~ present that a user is offline, online and not engaged in a conference, and/or online and engaged in a conference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

The intermediate layer 220 provides an interface between the user interface layer 210 and the CBM adaptation layer 230. The intermediate layer 220 may be implemented using a Java Media Framework (JMF). The JMF is an application program interface (API) that enables audio, video, and other time based media to be added to java applications and applets. The JMF uses the Real-Time Transport Protocol (RTP) (e.g., RFC 3267) for communication between distributed components designed for multimedia communications. The JMF provides an interface between the data protocols of the user interface (and its associated data capture devices) and the CBM infrastructure. The JMF converts the multimedia data stream generated by the user interface layer to data packets in JAVA using the RTP protocol for publishing to the CBM network 120. The JFM also converts RTP protocol packets received as messages ~~from~~from the CBM adaptation layer 230 into a multimedia data stream that is compatible with the user interface layer 210 and its data capture devices. The JMF provides both "reliable" and "unreliable" communication modes. The reliable mode is used for all multimedia stream management functions. The unreliable mode is used for transmitting the multimedia data packets to the CBM network 120.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 3, the flow of data is shown with regard to the exemplary conference architecture of Fig. 2. An input device (e.g., a microphone 301 and/or a video camera 302) may be used to generate corresponding streams of data 310 and 315, respectively. The user interface layer 210 manages the audio 310 and/or video 315 data streams by providing any necessary encoding or processing. The audio/video data streams are provided from the user interface to the JMF 220, which encodes the data into packets using the RTP. The RTP encoded data packets are provided to the CBM adaptation layer 230 for encoding as CBM messages, and are published to the CBM network 120~~20~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

The user interface layer 210 also provides user status information to the status/conference management layer 250 as data stream 330. For example, the user interface layer 210 provides the status of an associated user to the status conference management layer 250 indicating whether the user is offline, connected to the CBM network 120 and able to engage in a conference, or is online and engaged in a conference. The status conference management layer 250 publishes the status to the CBM network 120 where it is provided to other subscribing users that list the user as a contact in their contact list. The user status is published to the CBM network 120 (where it is ~~delivered-subscribing~~ delivered to those subscribing to contact lists).